MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know the approximate number of pilgrims who have gone last year to Sabarimala for Makaravilakku ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Sir, the total amount of temple collection from pilgrims was stated to be about Rs. 40,000 and each pilgrim is supposed to pay only one or 2 chuckrms. A calculation can be made from this. The number of pilgrims may be a few lakhs.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Under these circumstances, may I ask whether it is practicable to search each and every pilgrim who goes there for Makaravilakku ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Sir, it is not possible and I may humbly submit that is not desirable also, because of the occasion.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know whether there are not particular routes to go there ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : I am aware of two, but there may be more.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know whether it is not possible for the excise authorities to set apart their preventive force to particular routes through which alone it may be possible for intending pilgrims to take illicit arrack ?

PRESIDENT : Does the honourable member suggest by this that each and every pilgrim should be searched ? I understand that the persons who go on pilgrimage to Sabarimala number between 3 and 4 lakhs. When there is such a huge number, is it possible to suggest that their clothing, baggage, bundles etc., should be examined by the Excise authorities, and supposing that were done, will it not be regarded as an unconscionable infliction on the people ?

MR. S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI : Is it possible to suspend the issue to the shops at Pampa and Sabarimala ?

MR. P. G. NARAYANAN UNNITHAN : Nothing is issued at Sabarimala. It is stopped. At Pampa, for the reasons which I have already explained to the House, it is not possible to stop the practice of issuing temporary licences.

Constitution of a separate Chengannur taluk.

72. ***MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have considered the question of constituting a separate Chengannur taluk consisting of those pakuthies of the old Chengannur taluk;

(*b*) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, the steps taken on the matter ; and

(*c*) whether representations have been received for the constitution of a separate Chengannur taluk?

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MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : (*a*) The answer is in the negative.
(*b*) The question does not arise.
(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

MR PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from the honourable member when the old Chengannur taluk was abolished?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: In the year 1098 *i. e.* in connection with the reorganisation of the Land Revenue Department consequent on the separation of the Devaswom Department.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member the number of pakuthies of the Tiruvalla taluk?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: 26.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from the honourable member the total population of the present Tiruvalla taluk?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Over three and a half lakhs.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether there is any other taluk in the State having so many pakuthies and so much population?

MR G NARAYANAN TAMPI: No, Sir, so far as population is concerned. But as regards the number of pakuthies, the answer is in the affirmative.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know from the honourable member whether there is not a departmental rule which says that every Tahsildar should visit each pakuthy and stay there for at least three days in the month?

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI : The rule is that Tahsildars should visit each pakuthy in the respective Taluks at least once a quarter the halt being just as long as would be necessary for an inspection.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI ; May I know from the honourable member whether after the amalgamation of the taluks, the Tahsildar of Tiruvalla finds it possible for him to go to each pakuthy and stay there for three days as contemplated by the circular.

MR. G. NARAYANAN TAMPI: No, Sir, not every month. But the quarterly inspections use being conducted regularly.

Electric power from Shertalai to Vaikom.

73. ✻ MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Electric Department has investigated the possibilities of bringing power from Shertalai to the town of Vaikom by fixing posts in the backwaters?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA K. P. PADMANABHA MENON (*Electrical Engineer to Government*): Yes.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): May I know from the honourable member what, as a result of the investigation, the probable cost required for the extension of the electric line to Vaikom may be?

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